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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Reflection on the elaboration of plans for job creation and income increasing for the purpose of poverty elimination

Poverty is still a big problem in the world today, as we can see from the numbers. This is in spite of the progress that we see around us. The good news is that in 2010, only 18% of the world's population was living way below the poverty line as compared to 36% in 1990. It's a small victory, but the progress is slow.

"Working on poverty has continued to decrease, but at a slower pace than before the crisis. There are still some 870 million workers living with their families on less than US$2 per person per day, of which nearly 400 million are living in extreme poverty. A further 660 million workers are living just above the poverty line and are at high risk of falling back" (ILO Statement of 17 October 2013, Geneva).

People in poverty face not only finance problems but social as well, as they become subject of discrimination and humiliation. The interconnection of these problems creates additional difficulties. Thus, find the solutions, which lead to full employment in each country, and benefit from interdependence between states and related processes and issues. In this statement we will:

- Examine three groups of countries: developed economies, economies in transition and developing countries[1]– how they deal with poverty and employment, and we will pay a particular attention to the search for possible solutions;

- Consider possible interconnections between above-mentioned solutions, and their results;

- State the problems and processes influence on poverty and employment; and

- make recommendations based on the findings within the described issues.

"There is no established convention for the designation of "developed" ... countries or areas in the United Nations system. In common practice, Japan in Asia, Canada and the United States in northern America, Australia and New Zealand in Oceania and Europe are considered "developed" regions or areas. In international trade statistics, the Southern African Customs Union is also treated as developed region and Israel as a developed country[2]..."

The developed economies are not exempt from problems of poverty and unemployment, moreover according to the ILO "World of Work Report 2012", poverty levels have not gone down that much in developed economies: poverty rates dropped in 11 of 36 countries, rose in 17 and remained essentially unchanged in 8.

The main problems that cause poverty in developed countries are low wages, youth unemployment, non-income inequalities (especially related to healthcare systems), and inequalities in access to credit for small and medium-sized enterprises. Moreover, continuous influence of the finance crisis is another significant difficulty.

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[1] Classification is as per Statistical annex:
http://www.google.ru/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CCcQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fen%2Fdevelopment%2Fdesa%2Fpolicy%2Fwesp%2Fwesp_current%2F2012country_class.pdf&ei=gUdmUv_7EInY4wSCIIGYBQ&usg=AFQjCNGM1q_-vdfWK_qNrLi-HJoQ1y4Qkw&sig2=pcY7wux1a5GXdR17ML4Nrg&bvm=bv.55123115,d.bGE&cad=rjt

[2] United Nations. Standard country or Area Codes for Statistical Use. Series M, No. 49, Rev. 4 (United Nations publication, Sales No. M.98.XVII.9). Available in part at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm

There is obviously no universal solution for all problems and for all countries, thus we claim for a complex of measures to be taken:

- Cooperation in tackling the issues, including joint researches, projects and actions;
- Best practices examination and adaptation;
- Trends expectation and examination;
- Job places creation for youth in governmental and international projects;
- Review of salaries systems; and
- Review of legal issues regarding small and medium-sized enterprises.

The result of these measures would be finding of new possible strategies of actions to tackle the poverty and unemployment, especially intergeneration poverty; creation of new job places; and possible positive influence to less developed countries through international projects.

"Countries with transition economies (transition countries, transition economies). Countries moving from centrally planned to market-oriented economies. These countries- which include China, Mongolia, Vietnam, former republics of the Soviet Union, and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe- contain about one-third of the world's population."[3]

The main problems that cause poverty in transition economies are unemployment, inflation and lack of states' activities in this regard. Insufficient food and clothing, poor housing, limited access to utilities, poorer health and less access to healthcare, discrimination, and psychological suffering go in association with poverty. Especially vulnerable to poverty are households in remote rural areas, most ethnic minorities, children, women, and single elderly people. A significant issue of poverty in such countries is the long-term poor.

Thus, together with the measures suggested to the developed countries, the economies in transition shall concentrate on social sustainability, improvement of political situation, internal conflicts eradication and improvement of criminal situation. Other possible instruments to tackle the poverty and unemployment are:

- The development of organized social society, and growth of its position in the decision-making process;
- The improved access and quality of education and training; and
- The strengthened !abour market policies.

The complex of such measures will tackle the problems from different corners, including social, economic and political spheres; and will contribute to the relationship strengthening between countries of same and other groups.

Also called a less-developed country: "*A country with lower GDP relative to other countries. Less developed countries are characterized by little industry and sometimes a comparatively high dependence on foreign aid. Less developed countries often undertake programs of development, with greater or lesser interventions on the part of the national*

[3] The World Bank definition: http://www.worldbank.org/depweb/english/beyond/global/glossary.html

governments. They are major borrowers from organizations such as the World Bank. While no strict definition of which countries are less developed exists, most countries that do not belong to the OECD are considered less developed."[4]

While the developing countries leads the world combat with poverty in its dynamic, they are still facing this problem in a huge size. The ILO World of Work Report 2012 "…shows that national poverty rates declined in about three quarters of developing countries, particularly those that put in place significant social policies. On the other hand, poverty rates increased or remained unchanged in 25 of 36 developed economies as labour markets declined and austerity measures took their toll."[5]

The economic growth of the developing countries will contribute to the significant poverty reduction, especially if the income inequality will be tackled too. Another instrument for poverty eradication is improvement of social care systems. In this regard, the developing countries shall carefully exchange and study their best practices, consider the trends and improve their political situation together with giving opportunities for the development of the social society.

The following steps might be taken to eradicate the poverty in developing countries:

- International development projects with foreign governmental and private investments;
- Governmental projects for youth employment;
- Countries' cooperation in this regard, including joint projects and researches;
- Improvement of conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Methods to eradicate the inequality of income;
- International organizations' researches and finance support; and
- International programs for coverage of poverty in the developing countries, with a significant role of NGOs in such programs.

These measures would tackle the problem from different corners and will involve various stakeholders on regional and international levels.

The poverty and unemployment – being a complex problem with various interconnected factors and stakeholders – require a complex of solutions. Thus, after reviewing the problematic area in three groups of countries and sub-problems, we suggest the following interdependent measures:

1. Increasing and improving communications among developing countries, leading to a greater awareness of common problems and wider access to available knowledge and experience as well as the creation of new knowledge in tackling development problems.

2. Enabling developing countries to achieve a greater degree of participation in international economic activities and to expand international cooperation for development.

[4] Farlex Financial Dictionary: http://financial-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/developing+country

[5] ILO: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_180704/lang--en/index.htm

3. Creating and strengthening existing technological capacities in the developing countries in order to improve the effectiveness with which such capacities are used and to improve the capacity of developing countries to absorb and adapt technology and skills to meet their specific developmental needs.

4. Strengthening the capacity of developing countries to identify and analyse together their main development issues and formulate the requisite strategies to address them.